accommodation with permission after retirement upto a period of two months.

Hubli Airport

729. SHRI J. P. JAVALI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the new Hubli airport which was brought under air service has become non-functional ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) by when the airport will be made functional again?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government had taken up construction of the Hubli airport for Vayudoot operations. The following works are in progress :—

1. Diversion of a high tension line away from the airport.
2. Asphalting of runway.
3. Provision of operational chain link fencing.

State Government authorities have indicated that these pending works are likely to be completed by the end of June, 1990.

Decrease in Capacity Utilisation of Power Project

730. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decrease in the capacity utilisation in power projects during the current year as compared to the year 1987-88 ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the percentage of decrease in their capacity utilisation ; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to increase the capacity utilisation in power projects and develop the existing resources?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) and (b) The average capcity utilisation in thermal power stations on all India basis during April, 1989—February, 1990 is 56·1%, as against 56·0% during the same period in 1987-88.

(c) Various measures being taken to further improve the capacity utilisation of thermal stations include implementation of the centrally sponsored Renovation & Modernisation programme, assistance to State Elec ricy Boards in undertaking Plant betterment programmes as well as in the procurement of spare parts, supply of requisite quality and quantity of coal, training of personnel etc.

Proposal to operate Boeing Service to Tirupati

731. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to operate Boeing service to Tirupati ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) to (c) whereas Indian Airlines proposed to operate Boeing services to Tirupati, this has not been possible since Tiruprti airport is not suitable for operations by Boeing-737 aircraft.

Interlinking the State Capitals by Air

732. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether every State Capital in the country is directly interlinked by air ;

(b) if not, whether Government have any scheme to do so ; and

(c) which of the State Capitals are not so linked as on the 30th June, 1989 ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AFIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) No State Capital in the country is directly interlinked with all other State Capitals.

Cost of Electricity Generation in the Country

733. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the average cost of generation of electricity in the country and at what average cost it is being made available to the cultivators Statewise ;

(b) what is the average cost at which it is supplied to the industrial sector, State-wise ; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to provide electricity to the cultivators and small scale industrial sector at lower rates?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the State-wise average cost of generation and supply as well as average rate of realisation from agricultural and industrial sectors for the year ending 31st March, 1989 is given in Statement.

(c) The power in relation to fixation of tariff for different categories of consumers including agricultural and small scale industrial sectors vests with the State Governments/State Electricity Boards in terms of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.